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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Eleventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 205th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 30 January 1992, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. TALLAWY

later: Ms. ILIC
(Vice-Chairperson)

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Adoption of the report of the Committee

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE (CEDAW/C/L.1 and Corr.1 and Add.1-15)

1. The CHAIRPERSON recalled that the Committee had decided that editorial changes or corrections - in other words, changes relating to wording or format only - should be made by the Secretariat without further discussion, but that substantive amendments and changes which were unacceptable to the Rapporteur should be considered by the Committee.

CEDAW/C/1992/L.1

2. Ms. GONZALEZ MARTINEZ proposed employing the future tense in the fifth sentence of paragraph 6, since the draft declaration being recommended was yet to be submitted. Accordingly, "also contained" should be replaced by "would also contain" and "submitted" should be replaced by "which would be submitted".

3. Ms. Ilic, Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

4. Ms. CORTI proposed that the third sentence of paragraph 6 should read: "The meeting was attended by experts representing all regions and including a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and a member of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control".

5. Ms. CREYDT (Secretary of the Committee) said that the statement by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna contained in document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Corr.1 would be included in paragraph 11 of document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1.

6. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU (Rapporteur) said that the following sentence should be added between the first and second sentences of paragraph 18: "The working group had been greatly assisted by the preparations and work of the Secretariat and by the contributions of non-governmental organizations". Also, the names of Ms. Alfonsín de Fasán and Ms. Bravo Nuñez de Ramsey should appear in paragraph 22, not paragraph 21.

7. Ms. OESER proposed adding the following words at the end of the second sentence of paragraph 25: ", and to Working Group II the item of reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women".

8. The CHAIRPERSON asked Ms. González Martínez and Ms. Bustelo García del Real to consult with each other and the Rapporteur on a new draft of paragraph 26 which would take into account the oral amendments proposed and the observations made.

9. The section of the draft report contained in document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1, as amended, was adopted subject to the new draft of paragraph 26 that was to be proposed, taking into account the oral amendments and observations.

CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.1

10. Ms. AOUIJ said that the number of women's organizations indicated in paragraph 6 (ninth line) should be verified against the report of Barbados.

11. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU (Rapporteur) said that it was proposed that in the final sentence of the English version of paragraph 11 the words "led to" should be replaced by the words "resulted in".

12. Ms. WALLA-TCHANGAI suggested replacing the words "had access to family planning advice" in the fifth line of paragraph 17 by "could use family planning services".

13. Following an exchange of views in which Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU (Rapporteur), Ms. FORDE, Ms. OESER, Ms. BUSTELO GARCIA del REAL, Ms. QUINTOS-DELES and Ms. NIKOLAEVA took part, the CHAIRPERSON concluded that the Committee wished to delete the sixth sentence of paragraph 21.

14. The section of the draft report contained in document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.1, as orally amended, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.2

15. Ms. WALLA-TCHANGAI proposed replacing "disappointment" by "concern" in the first line of paragraph 7.

16. Ms. BUSTELO GARCIA del REAL, referring to the third sentence of paragraph 13, suggested that, in order to remove any ambiguity from the Spanish text, the words "si los hombres también estaban sujetos a ellos" should be replaced by "si los programas también iban dirigidos a los hombres". Ms. WALLA-TCHANGAI noted the same ambiguity in the French text and suggested that it could be corrected by adding "par ces programmes" after the word "visés".

17. Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING, supported by Ms. ABAKA, proposed replacing "matriarchal" by "matrilineal" in the last sentence of paragraph 14.

18. Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING, supported by Ms. ABAKA, proposed removing any ambiguity from the second sentence of paragraph 20 by rewording the beginning of the sentence so that it read: "While the number of female employees in the economy and in the public sector".

19. After a discussion in which Ms. ABAKA, Ms. CREYDT (Secretary of the Committee), Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING, Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU and Ms. UKEJE took part, the second sentence of paragraph 21 was changed to read "Female circumcision was discussed and members asked whether there had been information programmes about the particular danger for women, as well as programmes to combat or at least reduce female circumcision."

20. The section of the draft report contained in document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.2, as amended, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.3

21. Ms. UKEJE, referring to paragraph 13, asked the meaning of the term "middle schooling".

22. Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING answered that it referred to secondary education.

23. Ms. UKEJE said that the two notions were completely different and proposed that "middle schooling" should be replaced by "middle schools".

24. The CHAIRPERSON said that such changes were of an editorial nature and that the Secretary would discuss them with the Official Records Editing Section.

25. The section of the draft report contained in document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.3 was adopted, subject to appropriate editorial changes.

CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.4

26. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU (Rapporteur), supported by Ms. FORDE, proposed that the second sentence in paragraph 1 should be deleted.

27. Following a brief discussion in which Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU (Rapporteur), Ms. AQUIJ and Ms. FORDE took part, the second sentence in paragraph 1 was reworded so that it read: "Replying to questions related to bigamy, she said that bigamy was a criminal offence".

28. Ms. FORDE proposed that the expression "directly referred to by the courts", in the second sentence of paragraph 2, should be replaced by "directly adjudicated by the courts". Ms. UKEJE proposed that the word "curtailed", in the fourth sentence of paragraph 2, should be replaced by "infringed".

29. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU (Rapporteur) said that the expression "Welfare Department", at the end of paragraph 3, should be replaced by the expression "welfare services".

30. Ms. UKEJE proposed that the end of the second sentence of paragraph 4 should be reworded so that it read: "... the assaulted victim could also sue the perpetrator in a civil law suit."

31. Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING proposed that the word "yet" should be deleted from the fourth line of paragraph 5.

32. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU (Rapporteur) said that at the end of the first sentence of paragraph 10 the words "prior to, and after 12 weeks", should be replaced by "prior to, and up to 12 weeks".

33. Ms. FORDE proposed that the word "school" in the term "school education" at the end of paragraph 12 should be deleted. The French version would read "accès égal à l'enseignement".

34. Following a discussion in which Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU (Rapporteur), Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING, Ms. FORDE, Ms. AOUIJ, Ms. CORTI, Ms. NIKOLAEVA and Ms. LIN Shangzhen took part, the middle of the second sentence of paragraph 14 wa amended so that it read: "some members felt that women were still generally utilized".

35. After a brief discussion in which Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING, Ms. FORDE, Ms. BUSTELO GARCIA del REAL, Ms. ALFONSIN DE FASAN, Ms. BRAVO NUÑEZ DE RAMSEY and Ms. UKEJE took part, it was proposed that at the end of paragraph 16 the words "but also a third party, who was a victim, or the perpetrator" should be replaced by "but also the third party, on behalf of the victim".

36. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU (Rapporteur) proposed that the first half of the penultimate sentence of paragraph 17 should be reworded so that it read: "For instance, recent information showed that about 60 per cent ...".

37. The section of the draft report contained in document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.4, as amended, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.5

38. Ms. UKEJE said that in the penultimate line of paragraph 2 the word "had" between "have" and "children" should be deleted.

39. Ms. ABAKA proposed the deletion of "on the matter" in the eighth line of paragraph 6. She also pointed out a typographical error in the fourth line of paragraph 7, where "sharing" should be "shaving".

40. Ms. UKEJE said that she did not understand what was meant, in the penultimate sentence of paragraph 7, by the statement that matrilineal inheritance occurred essentially under the patriarchal system of control.

41. Ms. ABAKA said that the statement was correct, however contradictory it might appear. In Ghana the patriarchal system was predominant, the matrilineal system being restricted to matters relating to inheritance and to a few communities.

42. Ms. UKEJE proposed the deletion of "against" after "combat" in the fourth line of paragraph 14.

43. Ms. ABAKA proposed that the phrase "female genital mutilation", in the same sentence, should be replaced by "female circumcision", as had been done in other sections of the report.

44. Ms. LIN Shangzhen said that, in the English text, in the first line of paragraph 15 the word "article" should be added between "under" and "16".

45. Ms. BRAVO NUÑEZ DE RAMSEY said that it was important to use the proper terms in official United Nations documents such as the Committee's report. Accordingly, she proposed that in the fifth line of the Spanish version of paragraph 16, the word "esposas", which was misused, should be replaced by the correct word "cónyuges". In law, "esposa" was synonymous with "novia" (fiancée), where "cónyuge" was the term applied to married persons.

46. The CHAIRPERSON said that the problem appeared to affect only the Spanish version, and proposed that the term "wife-beating" should be kept in the English text. The appropriate Secretariat unit would be asked to make the necessary corrections to the Spanish text.

47. The section of the draft report contained in document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.5, as amended, was adopted.

48. The CHAIRPERSON informed the Committee that she had just received document CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Corr.1 containing the statement by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna. She suggested that the Committee should adopt it.

49. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.